

INFORMATION LETTER

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NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Members
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Spring Meeting of Board, Council, Committees

The N.C.A. Board of Directors met in Washington May 19-20 to review Association business and to receive special reports on certain activities. The two-day session was the annual spring meeting of the Administrative Council and Board.

Other meetings, held in conjunction with the midyear meeting of the Board, were those of the Scientific Research Committee and the Raw Products Committee.

Actions of the Board and other developments will be reported in the next issue of the INFORMATION LETTER.

Radio, TV Press Releases

The point that canned foods are the result of scientific farming and crop control was featured in a series of radio, TV, and newspaper press releases recently as part of the continuing Consumer and Trade Relations activity of the N.C.A.

Radio releases went out on May 12 to 178 broadcasters in 47 states whose estimated listening audience amounts to 12 million on the "Kitchen-Air" series of radio script services.

A special TV script entitled "Canning is a Sure Thing" was sent to 220 broadcasters in 133 cities in 41 states, estimated listening audience of 16,500,000. Certain crops were supplied with the script to the program directors including a pack of sweet corn seed and photographs illustrating the scientific operation followed with canning crops. The text suggested ways in which visual illustrations could be made of the maintenance of quality of canned foods.

Some of the same points were emphasized in a release story with photographs entitled "Your Pantry Shelf Garden Bears Fruit All Year Long," mailed to 82 metropolitan newspapers with a circulation of 17 million.

Labor Department Supports Request for 90 Cent Minimum

In response to a request by Senator Douglas (Ill.), chairman of a Senate Labor Subcommittee, the U. S. Department of Labor on May 16 submitted three reports supporting the Administration's request for an increase in the statutory minimum wage to 90 cents an hour.

The Labor Department statements do not relate to specific bills, other than to reaffirm its position in favor of a 90 cent minimum wage and to oppose again a higher minimum.

The subcommittee had asked the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics to "make the best possible estimate of the actual increase in the cost of living of low-income families" and that this data "be computed on the basis of different relative importance given to major subgroups—such as food, housing—of the all-item index."

The BLS reported that the increase in consumer prices from January, 1950, to March, 1955, amounted to 13.6 percent. The BLS also estimated, following a special study that included food prices, that the over-all level of prices paid by low-income families had risen approximately the same amount, 14.1 percent. Low-income families are those of two or more persons with net incomes of less than \$2,000 in 1950 in 91 cities.

Thus, the Department said, the increase in consumer prices since enactment of the 75 cent minimum wage in January, 1950, amounting to about 14 percent, would justify an increase to 90 cents an hour at this time to keep the statutory minimum in pace with retail prices.

The BLS reported that, in the over-all cost of living, the average family devotes 32.4 percent of its expenditures for food. Food for home consumption accounts for 27.4 percent of total expenditures and food consumed away from home accounts for 5 percent.

Low-income families were found to be applying 40.8 percent of their total expenditures for food, of which 39.4

percent was for home consumption and 1.4 percent for food away from home.

The BLS presented graphic evidence that "during the period 1950 to 1955, food prices did not rise as much as did other elements in the family budget, notably rents, public transportation, medical care, and the cost of certain other services. Thus, food and certain other elements in the budgets of low-income families were not rising in price as rapidly as were elements which are more important in the budgets of families with moderate incomes."

USDA Appropriations

The Senate and House on May 16 adopted a conference report on H. R. 5239, making appropriations for the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and cleared the bill for the President. The bill earmarks \$250,000 for a study of price spreads between the farmer and the consumer.

The Senate had eliminated the House-passed provision earmarking \$1 million for the price spread study. Conferees agreed to order the study but allowed only \$250,000.

Conferees also provided \$250,000 for a special study by the Foreign Agricultural Service "to obtain statistics and related facts on foreign production and full and complete information on methods used by other countries to move farm commodities into world trade on a competitive basis."

The bill provides a total of \$696,917,855 for USDA for the coming fiscal year. This compares with \$653,129,960 for regular activities this year.

Railroad Freight Rates

The Interstate Commerce Commission has ordered hearings on the railroad industry's request that temporary freight rate increases granted in 1952 be made permanent.

The ICC set July 6 as the deadline for receipt of written statements by interested parties, and set September 26 as the date for oral cross examination on these statements.

Status of Legislation

Wage-Hour Legislation—Senate Labor Subcommittee concluded public hearings May 18 on legislation to amend Fair Labor Standards Act (see story, page 215).

Trade Agreements Act—H. R. 1 was passed by House Feb. 18 and by Senate, with amendments, May 4. Conference met this week but failed to reach agreement.

Philippine Trade Act—H. R. 6059, to authorize the President to enter into a revised trade agreement with the Philippine Republic, was the subject of a public hearing by the House Ways and Means Committee May 16.

Customs simplification—H. R. 6040, to revise the method of which the value of imported merchandise is determined for customs evaluation, will be the subject of public hearings by the House Ways and Means Committee beginning May 23.

Mexican farm labor program—H. R. 3822, to authorize continued importation of Mexican nationals for employment in agriculture and to permit negotiations for a new agreement with Mexico, was approved by the Gathings subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee May 12.

Price supports—H. R. 12, restoring rigid price supports on basic crops at 90 percent of parity, was passed by House May 5. Senate Agriculture Committee on May 18 voted 8-7 to hold public hearings on price support legislation at a date to be determined.

USDA appropriations—H. R. 5239 was cleared for the President May 17 (see story, page 215).

Renegotiation—H. R. 4904, providing a two-year extension of the Renegotiation Act of 1951, was passed by House April 28. Senate Finance Committee decided this week to hold two days of public hearings at a date to be determined.

Hells Canyon Dam—Senate Subcommittee on Irrigation and Reclamation resumed hearings on S. 1333 on May 20.

Antitrust suits—H. R. 4954, providing a uniform statute of limitations for antitrust cases, was passed by House April 26.

Antitrust penalties—H. R. 3659, to increase maximum penalties under the Sherman Act, was passed by House March 29.

Cloyd O. Davidson

Cloyd O. Davidson, 73, former manager of a plant of Columbus Foods in Horicon, Wis., died May 16.

Mr. Davidson had entered the canning business in 1901 in a plant at Waukesha, with his cousins, Frank J. and Fred A. Stare. He was put in charge of a small research and control laboratory, the first in a cannery in the United States.

After service as superintendent and manager of plants in various parts of Wisconsin, Mr. Davidson transferred to Horicon in 1920 to build and manage the plant for Columbus Foods. He became a director and vice president of that firm. He retired in 1945.

Mr. Davidson served as a member of the N.C.A. Board of Directors from 1933 through 1935. He was active in the Pea Section and was its chairman in 1934. He also was a past president of the Wisconsin Cannery Association and a diamond pin member of the Old Guard Society.

Pack of Canned Meat

The quantity of meat canned and meat products processed under federal inspection during the month of April has been reported by the Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, at 157,718 thousand pounds, including quantities for defense.

Canned Meat and Meat Products Processed under Federal Inspection April, 1955

	3 Lbs. & over	Under 3 Lbs.	Total
	(thousands of pounds)		
Luncheon meat.....	11,266	8,296	19,562
Canned hams.....	14,083	323	14,406
Corned beef hash.....	267	4,897	5,164
Chili con carne.....	488	5,540	6,028
Vienna sausage.....	90	4,144	4,234
Frankfurters and wieners in brine.....	3	180	183
Deviled ham.....		632	632
Other potted and deviled meat products.....	2	2,940	2,942
Tamales.....	102	1,233	1,335
Fliced, dried beef.....	21	395	416
Chopped beef.....		1,877	1,877
Meat stew.....	54	6,155	6,209
Spaghetti meat products.....	106	7,229	7,335
Tongue (not pickled).....	95	223	318
Vinegar pickled products.....	601	1,380	1,981
Sausage.....	25	1,360	1,385
Hamburger.....	81	1,727	1,808
Soups.....	1,139	46,065	47,204
Sausage in oil.....		221	224
Tripe.....		310	310
Brains.....		184	184
Loins and picnics.....	1,922	61	1,983
All other products 20% or more meat.....	256	8,413	8,669
All other products less than 20% meat (except soup).....	280	16,727	17,007
Total.....	31,102	121,170	152,279

Green Peas for Processing

The 1955 acreage of green peas, planted or to be planted for processing, is reported as of May 15, at 460,780 acres, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA. This compares with 452,760 acres planted in 1954 and annual average plantings of 460,920 acres for the preceding 10-year period.

Of the 1955 plantings, 128,070 acres are indicated for freezing and 332,710 acres for canning and other processing. The comparable figures for 1954 are 125,610 acres and 327,150 acres; for the 1944-53 period, 95,000 acres and 365,920 acres.

The 1955 acreage of sweet, wrinkled types totals 359,420 acres, and smooth, round varieties 101,360 acres. In 1954 sweet, wrinkled varieties were planted on 354,710 acres and smooth, round green peas were planted on 98,050 acres.

In California, where harvesting operations were well under way in May, indications on May 15 pointed to a production of 14,710 tons. This compares with a 1954 production of 9,380 tons and an average of 8,070 tons for the 1944-53 period.

State	Planted Acreage			Percent change from 1954
	10-year ave. 1944-53	1954 Revised	1955 Preliminary	
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	
Maine.....	7,060	9,400	8,100	-14
New York.....	33,080	18,000	21,000	+17
Pennsylvania.....	14,830	12,800	13,000	+2
Ohio.....	3,920	1,500	1,600	+7
Indiana.....	4,960	1,900	2,700	+42
Illinois.....	23,000	30,100	29,200	-3
Michigan.....	8,130	5,400	5,800	+7
Wisconsin.....	137,510	131,000	131,000	0
Minnesota.....	50,120	63,100	61,500	-3
Iowa.....	4,290	3,400	4,200	+24
Delaware.....	2,620	2,900	3,900	+34
Maryland.....	9,610	9,700	9,700	0
Virginia.....	2,420	2,600	2,500	-4
Idaho.....	8,810	12,900	11,500	-11
Colorado.....	4,520	1,800	2,900	+61
Utah.....	11,580	8,000	7,600	-5
Washington.....	60,390	64,600	68,000	+5
Oregon.....	55,600	58,700	59,200	+1
California ¹	8,170	9,200	11,000	+23
Other states ²	10,310	5,760	6,380	+11
U. S. Total.....	460,920	452,760	460,780	+1.8
For canning and other processing.....	365,920	327,150	332,710	+1.7
For freezing.....	95,000	125,610	128,070	+2.0

¹ Acreage for harvest and indicated production. 1955. ² Ark., Ga., Kans., Mo., Mont., Nebr., N. J., Okla., Tenn., W. Va., and Wyo.

Denmark Food Regulations

New regulations specifying content and marking requirements for canned foods became effective in Denmark May 1.

The regulations apply to imported and domestically produced canned and otherwise preserved fruits, vegetables, and marmalades. They establish certain new quality requirements and new labeling requirements, according to *Foreign Commerce Weekly*.

Grades for Kadota Figs

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced that, effective June 15, the densities of syrups in canned Kadota figs for inspection and certification would be changed.

Syrup testing 26° but not more than 35° Brix would be "Extra heavy syrup" compared with the present 30° Brix or over; syrup, 21° or more but less than 26° Brix would be "Heavy syrup" and compares with the present 25° to 30° Brix; syrup testing 16° or more but less than 21° Brix would be "Light syrup" and compares with the present 15° to 20° Brix. The designation, "Medium syrup" testing 20° to 25° Brix will be omitted.

The revised syrup measurements and designations replace those in the current U. S. standards for grades of canned Kadota figs which have been in effect since November 15, 1945.

Fish and Poultry Cookbook

The latest in a series of cook books issued by *Family Circle* magazine is *The Family Circle Fish and Poultry Cookbook*.

In the popular \$1 edition, the new cook book is available in many of the leading food chain stores throughout the country. Other cook books in the series now in the stores cover cakes and cookies, meats, and desserts and fruits.

Although the fish and poultry book includes all types, the authors have been generous in the number of canned fish, sea food and poultry used in recipes. Other canned foods also are included.

Buying information and recipes are given for canned salmon, sardines, tuna, abalone, clams, crab meat, lobster, mussels, oysters, scallops, shrimp, chicken, and other poultry.

The book is attractively illustrated with both color and black and white photographs.

Forthcoming Meetings

- May 25—Tidewater Cannery Association of Virginia, Inc., Annual Meeting, The Tides Inn, Irvington
- June 12-13—Michigan Cannery and Freezers Association, Spring Meeting, Park Place Hotel, Traverse City
- June 12-16—Institute of Food Technologists, 15th Annual Meeting, Columbus, Ohio
- June 12-16—National Association of Retail Grocers, 56th Annual Convention, Navy Pier, Chicago
- June 20-22—Grocery Manufacturers of America, Inc., Midyear Meeting, The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.
- June 21-22—Maine Cannery Association, Summer Meeting, Lakewood near Shawhegan
- June 23-24—California Olive Association, Technical Conference, Brockway, Lake Tahoe
- June 23-24—Processed Apples Institute, Inc., Annual Meeting, The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.
- July 21-22—National Kraut Packers Association, Annual Meeting, Catawba Cliffs Beach Club, near Port Clinton
- July 27-Aug. 5—New York State Cannery and Freezers Association, Annual Mold Count School, New York State Experiment Station, Geneva
- July 29—Northwest Cannery Association, Summer Meeting, Oswego Lake Country Club, Oswego, Ore.
- August 21-24—National Industrial Stores Association, 29th Annual Convention, Hotel Shoreham, Washington, D. C.
- September 11-14—National-American Wholesale Grocers Association, Midyear Meeting, Broadmoor Hotel, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- October 13-15—Florida Cannery Association, Annual Meeting, Fontainebleau Hotel, Miami Beach
- October 27—National Pickle Packers Association, Annual Convention, Sheraton-Blackstone Hotel, Chicago
- November 5—Illinois Cannery Association, Fall Meeting, Bismarck Hotel, Chicago
- November 7-8—Wisconsin Cannery Association, 51st Annual Convention, Schroeder Hotel, Milwaukee

- November 11-15—American Meat Institute, Annual Convention, Palmer House, Chicago
- November 16-18—Grocery Manufacturers of America, Inc., Annual Convention, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City
- November 21—Pennsylvania Cannery Association, 41st Annual Convention, Penn Harris Hotel, Harrisburg
- December 1-3—Tri-State Packers Association, Annual Convention, Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia
- December 5-6—Michigan Cannery and Freezers Association, Fall Meeting, Pantlind Hotel, Grand Rapids
- December 5-6—Ohio Cannery Association, 48th Annual Convention, Carter Hotel, Cleveland
- Jan. 29-Feb. 1—National Association of Frozen Food Packers, Annual Convention, Waldorf-Astoria, New York City
- February 17-18—Cannery League of California, Annual Fruit and Vegetable Sample Cutting, Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco
- March 5-9—National-American Wholesale Grocers Association, Annual Convention, Palmer House, Chicago
- March 26-27—Cannery League of California, 52d Annual Meeting, Santa Barbara Biltmore, Santa Barbara

Sweet Potato Diseases

The third revision of a bulletin on diseases of sweet potatoes, first published more than 35 years ago, has been issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It supersedes a bulletin issued in 1944 and contains accounts of new practices and new materials used in control of field and storage diseases of sweet potatoes.

A single copy of the new edition of *Sweetpotato Diseases* (Farmers' Bulletin No. 1059) may be obtained upon request from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

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